LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Arrival of the German Emperor at Venice.

GALA SCENES IN THE CITY OF THE SEA

Received by the King and Queen of Italy.

TOWN GAY WITH FLAGS

VENICE, April 11.-The imperial yacht Hohenzollern, with Emperor William of Germany and the empress on board, entered the St. Marie dock this afternoon. The king and queen of Italy, accompanied

by Premier Rudini, all the cabinet ministers and Gen. Count Lanza Di Busca, the Italian ambassador at Berlin, boarded the imperial yacht as soon as she was moored and greeted the distinguished visitors.

The meeting between the emperor and Kirg Humbert and between the empress and Queen Margaret was of the most cor dial rature. The town is beautifully decorated with flags, and tonight it will be bril-liantly illuminated.

Venice is crowded to overflowing with visitors from all parts of Italy and from nearly every part of Europe. The vicinity of its dock, where the Hohenzollern is moored, is alive with gondolas filled with people, and the immediate neighborhood of the dock is festooned with flags and gay with flowers and evergreens.

Subsequently the emperor and empress returned the visit of the King and Queen of Italy at the palace. Their majesties were warmly cheered by the crowds on their way to the royal residence.

LACKS TWO OF A MAJORITY.

Claims of Mr. Mudd's Friends as to the District Convention.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. BALTIMORE, Md., April 11.-The fight for the congressional nomination from the fifth district is distancing all other political skirmishes in interest, and public attention has been riveted for some time on the efforts of Mr. Sydney E. Mudd to se cure enough votes to make the nomination his beyond doubt, and the no less determined movement of his adversaries to prevent his success. He is now reasonably sure of eleven votes in the district conven tion, and has therefore only two more to secure to give him a majority. He and his friends feel they can depend on 3 votes from St. Mary's, 3 from Charles and 5 from Anne Arundel. They concede 8 votes to the opposition, 3 from Calvert, 3 from Howard and 2 from Baltimore county, while the 4 votes from Prince George's and 2 from the seventeenth ward of Baltimore city are now regarded as doubtful city are now regarded as doubtful.

Moreover, Mr. Mudd is now strongly backed by Gov. Lowndes and Mr. Welling-

ton, and is, consequently, in high favor with the administration forces. The activity of the anti-Mudd faction was illustrated by the scenes and incidents of the primary election in the seventeenth ward of Baltimore yesterday afternoon to elect delegates to the Upper Marlboro' convention on April 23, when district delegates to the national convention will be chosen, and to the La Plata convention, set for August 16, when the congressional candidate will be chosen. The election was one of the most exciting that has been held in Baltimore in recent years. Ballot box smashing, arrests and assaults figured, and the day closed with both sides claiming the

Congressman Coffin is a candidate for renomination, and he and Senator Day of Howard are the most conspicuous anti-Mudd candidates. Both are ardent workers and are prepared to give the speaker a hard fight.

LOST ON THE IRISH COAST.

Wreck of the British Ship Carnarvol shire on the Skibbereen Rocks. BERLIN, April 11.-The British ship Car-

narvonshire, Captain Hughes, from San Francisco on December 11 for Queenstown, has been wrecked on the rocks near Skibbereen. She went ashore last evening, and her stern to amidships is now submerged. The crew escaped in the boats, but they lost everything.

The Carnavonshire was of 1,122 tons reg-

ister, and built at Liverpool in 1876. She was 224 feet long, had about 36 feet beam was about 21 feet deep and was owned by Hughes & Company.

IN THE BEST OF HEALTH.

Consul General Williams Laughs at the Report of His Assassination. HAVANA, April 11.-There is absolutely no truth in the story from Madrid, printed this morning in New York, to the effect that the United States consul general here, Mr. Ramon O. Williams, has been murdered and his body dragged through the streets. A representative of the Associated Press called upon Mr. Williams today and found him enjoying the best of health. He laughed at the report in circulation, and said he was very busy with diplomatic matters.

A dispatch, under today's date, was re ceived at the State Department this morn-ing from United States Consul General Williams at Havana, thus disposing of the rumor that he had been assassinated and his body dragged through the streets of

SIX BLOWN TO PIECES.

Explosion of Giant Powder in a Mon tana Mine.

BUTTE, Mont., April 11.-An explosio of one hundred pounds of clarit powder, by which six men were blown to pleces, oc curred at the 1,100-feet level of St. Lawrence mine today. The names of the killed are: Con M. Lowney, John Quinlan, Ed. Shields, James Dwyer, John McVeigh, Patrick O'Rourke. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

as the six men killed were the only ones in the part of the mine where the disaster tertained as to the applicability of these sections (in an act of the District legislature occurred. Owing to fall of debris in th level just after the explosion, the bodies in 1872 providing for refund) to fees for permits under the act of April 23, 1892, arose from the provision therein which required will not be recovered until tonight. one-half of said fees to be deposited in the treasury to the credit of the United States,

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Congressman Bartholdt's Views on the louse Republican Caucus Tonight. Chairman Bartholdt of the House committee on immigration, speaking of the republican caucus tonight to outline the policy of the House on the immigration

"I welcome this plan for an interchange of opinions on the immigration question. There are two factions on this question, one omposed of those who favor extreme measures, amounting almost to prohibition of immigration; the other believing the present laws to be sufficiently stringent. Personally I favor the Lodge-McCall bill. which imposes an educational test, for that would shut out the undesirable classes of immigrants and very few others.

"While it is recognized that certain nationalities make more desirable citizens than others, it would be offensive to legislate against foreigners by naming their

"The Stone bill for consular certificates regard as extremely vicious. Under such a law the most desirable class of Germans and others would be excluded, the young men who are eligible for military service at home. They could not secure certificates, for our consuls could not issue these certificates in violation of the laws of the governments to which they were accredited.

More Filibusters Land.

TAMPA, Fla., April 11.-The Cubans held meetings last night in both their club louses in commemoration of the twentyseventh anniversary of the adoption of seventh anniversary of the adoption of their government's constitution and the fourth anniversary of the formation of a Cuban revolutionary party by Jose Marti. News has been received of the landing in Cuba of Col. Menzou's expedition of forty-seven men.

BONA-FIDE CIRCULATION. A reference to the statement below will show that the circulation

lieved to be fully five times that of

Circulation of The "Evening Star."

SATURDAY, April 4, 1896......36,021

MONDAY, April 6, 1896......29,482

TUESDAY, April 7, 1896......29,825

THURSDAY, April 9, 1896.29,803

FRIDAY, April 10, 1896......29,906

Daily average......30,837

I solemnly awear that the above statement rep-

resents only the number of copies of THE EVEN-

ING STAR circulated during the six secular days end-

ing Friday, April 10, 1896-that is, the num-

ber of copies actually sold, delivered, furnished

or mailed, for valuable consideration, to bona fide

nurchasers or subscribers, and that none of the

copies so counted are returnable to or remain in

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

LINTON A CANDIDATE

Seriously Seeking the Presidency as the

A. P. A. Representative.

His Nomination to Depend on the Re-

sult of the St. Louis

Convention.

Representative Linton of Michigan, the

A. P. A. leader in the House, is seriously a

candidate for the presidency. As the repre-

sentative of a secret order, his canvass is

being made in secrecy, but it is being ac-

tively pressed through the medium of the

various lodges of the A. P. A. The inten-

tion appears to be that he shall receive the

votes of a number of delegates at the re-

publican national convention, not with the

idea, perhaps, that he can get the republi-

can nomination, but with the view of hold-

ing all delegates who may be A. P. A. men away from any other candidate who may

be offensive to the order, and to prepare the way to an independent nomination if

the choice of the convention is repugnant

to them. Making an independent nomina-tion, they expect Linton to be their choice. They claim, however, that they are going to have enough of their order in the repub-

lican convention to defeat any man who is repugnant to them. They say that some of

His "Red School House" Speech.

Linton has made himself rather conspic

ious since he first entered Congress

through his devotion to the cause of the

house" speech first brought him into no-

f the fight this session against sectarian

chools shows how active the movemen

has been during the past two years. It

is viewed with some apprehension by many of the leaders in politics as likely to tem-

The Linton Button.

The Linton button has made its appear-

ance. Some of Mr. Linton's great admirers

are distributing them, and they are seen

on the lapels of numerous coats. The but-

ton contains a good picture of the well-known Michigan representative, and the words "For President, Wm. S. Linton."

The A. P. A. button, on which are the letters "F. P. P.," is becoming numerous. The letters stand for "Friendship, Purity and

A Star reporter mentioned to Mr. Linton

this morning that the Linton button was showing up. "I haven't anything to do with

Nobody seems to know exactly what are the projects of the friends of Mr. Linton. They may hope that there will be a chance for him as a dark horse, or they may mere-ly desire to compliment him.

REFUNDING LICENSE DEPOSITS.

Controller Bowler Sustains the Dis-

trict Authorities.

to the District Commissioners on the sub-

"The doubt which the first controller en-

as it was not seen how an act of the legis-lative assembly of the District could create

an appropriation of moneys once deposited to the credit of the United States.

"As, however, the acts of the legislative assembly, in force prior to the passage of the organic act, were by the provisions of that act adopted and ratified by Congress,

as if made by Corgress itself, they should be given the same force and effect as if

they had in fact been passed by Congress, and therefore they constitute appropriations for the repayment of taxes erroneously paid, and of license fees when the

licenses for which the fees are paid are subsequently refused by legal*authority.

fees paid for permits under section 3 of the act of April 23, 1812, when said per-mits are refused, notwithstanding the amount of the fees paid therefor have been

deposited into the treasury of the United States in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of said act."

Lieut. Lang's Case.

The case of Second Lieutenant C. E.

Lang, second artileery, is once again be-

fore the War Department for action on the

report of the medical board by which he

was recently examined at New York to de-

termine his physical condition. Lieut. Lang had applied for retirement on the ground that he was physically incapable of further active duty. It is said that he has been anxious to get on the retired list ever since his marriage to the daughter of an electric man abortly.

enlisted man, shortly after his graduation at West Point.

In response to his application, he was ordered before a medical board, and the result of the examination has just reached

refore you are authorized to refund

orarily disturb the political situation. The

he represented might go.

nition in the platform.

Patriotism," it is stated.

ject concludes as follows:

tons, if necessary.

delegates will even disregard instruc-

eleventh day of April, A. D. 1896.

J. WHIT. HERRON,

Cashier Evening Star Newspaper Co.

HERMAN R. HOWENSTEIN,

the office unsold.

Total......185,024

our afternoon contemporary.

sworn to is a bona fide one. It is easily possible for a news-He May Again Be a Candidate for paper with an elastic conscience to Governor. swell its legitimate circulation enormously, in order to deceive advertisers, by sending out thousands of NEW YORK DEMOCRATIC SITUATION papers to newsstands, which are re-

turnable, and which are in fact returned, but nevertheless are in-A Hope to Carry the State Legiscluded in what purports to be an honest statement of circulation. lature Next Fall. Intelligent advertisers, however, judge by results, and bogus circula-

tions don't give them. THE TEMPTATION INVOLVED The family circulation of The Star is many thousands in excess of any other Washington paper and is be-

The latest gossip in New York circles connects Senator Hill's name with the race this year for governor, and many democrats believe that it would be to his advantage to accept the nomination and throw his whole soul into the contest.

GOSSIP ABOUT HILL

A Peculiar Situation. The situation is peculiar. So far as national affairs are concerned the New York democrats are quite as dispirited as their brethren in other states. They are presentng ro presidential candidate of their own. Mr. Hill is going to Chicago at the head of Mr. Hill is going to Chicago at the head of the state delegation, but principally for the purpose, it is understood, of assisting in the construction of a good platform. His own preference among the presidential availabilities is Col. Morrison, and very likely the delegation will follow his lead and vote for the low tariff champion. But no assurance is held out, or will be, that even with Colonel Morrison on an accept-able platform the state can be carried for

he national ticket. The Local Opportunity. It is when considering local affairs that the New York democrats grow jubilant. The Raines bill has filled them with confidence. They fancy they see their way clear to retaking the state house at Albany, and even, by extraordinary management and a little luck, of securing a ma-jority on joint ballot in the next legisla-

The rext legislature will elect a successor to Mr. Hill in the Senate. The republicans start with an advantage. The senate, where they have a strong lead, holds over. Only the lower house, the assembly, is to be elected in November. This will make it necessary for the democrats to carry a large majority of the assembly seats if they are to control the senatorship. They believe this to be within the range of their abilities if they can utilize all of the material at their command.

Their Strongest Card. Mr. Hill has always been their strongest card. Whenever success has been possible they have won with him. Whenever disaster has come he has covered the retreat. There is a proposition that he be brought forward again this year. The argument is that as the candidate for governor he would not only strengthen the state ticket, but add to the enthusiasm and effectiveness of the campaign for seats in the as-sembly, and increase the number of the democrats winning.

Temptation in the Proposition. There is thought to be temptation in the proposition for Mr. Hill. His term as Senawill expire on the 4th of next March. But here will be two chances for him to remain prominently in public life. If he runs for governor and is elected he will return to an office which confers great power on the incumbent. Mr. Hill himself while holding it wielded greater power than he has ever done since. Or, in the case of a democratic majority in the legislature on joint ballot, ascribed to the influence of his gubernatorial candidacy and his personal direction of affairs, he will be able to suc-ceed himself in the Senate, by resigning the office of governor and giving way to the second man on the ticket. In either case, whether by returning to Albany, or by remaining here, he will continue an influential factor in affairs.

Mr. Hill is a tireless worker, and is now at home comparing with his friends about A. P. A. His famous "little red school the selection of delegates to Chicago. He has given no countenance as yet to this tice among his colleagues. It was not talk about himself nor is it thought he realized then how far the movement which is likely to even consider the matter until struck the popular fancy and members from all quarters sent it out to their con-stituents to read. One Senator distributed the proper time comes. to nominate a state ticket will probably not be called before September. Mean-while a great many things may happen a million copies, and about two million more were circulated by the republican members of the House. The character Calculated to put a new face on affairs.

The other names mentioned in connection with the nomination for governor are Mayor Thacher of Albany, John B. Stanch-Mayor Thacher of Albany, John B. Stanch-field of Elmira, Mr. Hill's law partner, and Perry Belmont.

SENOR QUESADA'S VIEWS.

opinion is expressed that the St. Louis convention is going to be embarrassed by the demands of both the A. P. A. and the social reformers and religionists for recog-The Cuban Representative Discusses the Subject of Mediation.

Senor Don Gonzalo de Quesada, the rep resentative here of the Cuban republic, conversed with a Star reporter this morning on the subject of the alleged note sent

to Spain by the United States. "If it is true that President Cleveland and his administration have addressed Spain on the subject of the Cuban war, with a view of bringing about its settlement by a species of arbitration," said Senor Quesada, "I can safely say that such efforts will come to naught. The Cuban people have been fooled too many times by Spain to submit themselves to any repre-

sentations she may make. "There was a time perhaps when home rule in Cuba on the plan of that exercised by the people in English dependences of and Australia might have been acceptable to our people, but that time has passed. A half a loaf is not acceptable now to people who are sure of securing a full meal of freedom. "But it is useless to speculate on any such

a thing. Spain will never accept the serv-ices of a mediator, even if they are tendered by such a strong nation as the United States.

Judge Bowler, controller of the treasury, has authorized the refunding of deposits Spain Realizes Her Position. for liquor licenses not granted. His letter

"She realizes precisely the desperate condition she is in. If she loses Cuba by war, as she is going to, she will be irretrievably bankrupt among nations. The result would be the same if she relinquished in any degree her despotic hold on the island by means of arbitration or anything else, because she would lose her power to make the Cuban taxes support her government at home.

"Another thing stands in the way of peaceful settlement of the war by the granting of home rule to Cuba. This would, of course, necessitate the withdrawal of Spain's army, and with this enormous arm of her power removed from the island she would be unable to govern it in her accustomed manner-and Spain would never aspretended to give our people the apparent

right to govern themselves."
"From what I have seen of the temper of the American people on this subject, said Senor Quesada, "I do not think the it is merely seeking reforms in Cuba, which Spain may some day take away from the island after the people are disarmed, will' meet the approval of the United States public. The people of this country, in my opinion, are satisfied in their minds that Cuba' should be absolutely free.

Nothing Less Than Independence. "Looking at the question of mediation in another way," continued Senor Quesada "It must be remembered that the Cuban republic is today an absolute entity. It is governing two-thirds of the Island of Cuba and is daily gaining strength and extending

its authority.

"It would be for the government to accept or refuse any terms that might be offered. An article of its constitution says that no An article of its constitution says that no treaty of peace shall be made except on the basis of independence. And you may rest assured that when the revolution is triumphing the Cubans are not going to give up the struggle for anything less."

Successfully Passed Examinations. Lieut. (junior grade) Frank W. Kellogg and Ensign Jno. P. McGuiness have successfully passed an examination for promotion to the next higher grades in the navy, and their cases will be submitted to the President for his approval in the

The President Reported to Have Proposed Meditation for Cuba The Rumor Accuragely Represents

but is Presenture. All is excitement in acial circles today over the publication of what purports to be the substance of a diplomatic note said to have been addressed by Secretary Olney to the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, through the medium of the United States

minister at Madrid, defining the attitude of this government on the Cuban affair The note is described as conciliatory but firm in character, somewhat imitating Secretary Olney's celebrated note to Lord Salisbury enunciating the Monroe doctrine in the Venezuelan boundary dispute. According to those responsible for the statement that such a communication has been sent to the Spanish authorities, the

United States minister is told to make it clear to Spain that the United States is actuated by the most friendly interest in calling to its attention the unhappy con dition of affairs in the Island of Cuba it is pointed out that the war is of far greater magnitude than any of the up-risings in the past, and that the insurgents control, with the exception of Havana, the whole of the island, and at-tention is called to the fact that in 1870 Spain promised to bring about reforms in Cuba, and that so far these reforms have

not been inaugurated.
For all these reasons, and because the United States is much disturbed by the conflict going on near its shores, the President, with the utmost kindness and with no motive but to end the strife with honor to all concerned, would propose that Spain accept the good offices of the United States

accept the good offices of the United States and allow it to act as mediator, so that the differences between the Spanish government and the Cubans may be peacefully settled to mutual advantage.

Although it is impossible to obtain official confirmation of the above reports, there is reason to believe that they correctly outline the position assumed by the administration, but are somewhat premature as to what actually has taken place. The well-guarded denials made at the State Department and at the Spanish legation here apply mainly to errors in details, rather than to the one material point that the President has decided to offer his good offices to the Spanish govpoint that the President has decided to offer his good offices to the Spanish government for the peaceful settlement of the Cuban troubles.

When the report was called to the atten tion of the Spanish minister he said he knew of no such note, either as going to Minister Taylor or himself.

ALABAMA'S ELECTION

Interest Felt in the Result of the Contest There Today.

The primary elections to be held in almos every county in Alabama today will settle the question of whether the state democratic convention will elect "sound money or silver delegates to the national convention. 30 It will also settle the question of whether Johnson, free silverite, or Clark, "sound money," will be the democratic nominee for governor."

Interest in the Result. The result of the Alabama fight is being watched here with more than the interest which ordinarily characterizes a state pri

mary. Silver and gold standard democrats are deeply interested in the outcome of the fight, and both sides have arranged for bulletins tonight.

The state is claimed by both sides, although it has been admitted for some time that Alabama was about the only southern state which was doubtful on the silver quesmetal the silver men will be more fulfilant than ever. They will then see and know that the south's delegation to Chicago wil solid for a silver man and platform.

The silver democrats have been feeling good the past week. The Missouri primaries had gone the way they had predicted, even the city of St. Louis showing up a big majority for the white metal. Oregon had elected a silver delegation, and everywhere else the sliverites had been victorious. The interest they have in the Alabama contest

can be imagined. Representatives Cobb, Wheeler and the other silver democrats from Alabama express no doubt about the outcome, while Representative Harrison has all along said re would be some surprises in his state. He has regarded Clark as having a splen

Effect on the Senatorship.

Representative Clark, the gold standard candidate, has been absent from his seat in the House for fully two months, and has put in every minute of the time campaigning in the state. He was making such headway that several of the silver Congressmen, among them Mr. Bankhead, went to Alabama several weeks ago to try to a candidate for the Senate to succeed Senator Pugh if the silver men win. Governor Oates will be a "sound-money" candidate state, and it may be said that there is a national tinge to the election today. It is understood that the entire influence of the administration has been thrown into the fight and everything done to help Mr. Clark along. The silver men have not been backward, knowing that the loss of the state means a refutation of their claims of a solid south for silver.

ARMOR PLATE CONTRACTS.

The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs Much Concerned.

The Senate committee on naval affairs held an executive session today for the Propose of considering the testimony which has been taken in connection with the armor plate investigation. The only definite conclusion reached was not to interfere with the Secretary of the Navy in making contracts for armor for the Kentucky and the Kearsarge, but to allow these to be given to private firms as heretofore.

Their investigations have revealed the fact that the cost of the manufacture of the plate averages about \$300. The manufacturers make the plea, however, that the work furnished is not sufficient to keep them constantly employed, and say that with contracts running constantly for five or ten years they could reduce the price, but not otherwise. It is this state of affairs which has led

the committee to consider the advisability of building a government plant.
With reference to another branch of the committee's inquiry, that touching upon the employment of risval officers by armor plate constructors, the committee will, in all probability, report to bill forbidding naval officers, active or tetired, to accept employment from naval plate constructors.

BISHOP RYAN'S FUNERAL.

Twelve Thousand Men Will Escor His Romains.

BUFFALO, N. Y. April 11.-Tomorrow afternoon the remains of the late Bishor Ryan will be escorted from the episcopal residence to the cathedral by the various organized bodies of the Catholic Church. It is probable that 12,000 men will be in line. From Sunday afternoon until Tuesday morning the remains will lie in state at the

cathedral.

If Archbishop Ryan can be present he will preach the funeral sermon on Tuesday. The remains will be deposited in the cathedral vault beside the bodies of Bishop Timon and Vicar General Gleason.

From the letters and telegrams constantly arriving it is certain that the funeral will be attended by many prominent church dignitaries in the United States and Canada. Cardinal Gibbons has expressed regret at his inability to attend. The powers to administer temporarily the affairs of the see will probably be vested in Father Lani-

gan, the present vicar general.

KINDLY OFFICES OFFERED TROUBLESOME SEEDS CRITICISED THE COMMISSION FINANCE AND TRADE

A Chicago Firm Makes Serious Charges.

THEY WERE LOWEST BIDDERS IN VAIN

The Secretary Shows Why Seeds Were Bought Elsewhere.

S E E D T E S T I N G statement, which was in the nature of a GENERAL MARKET REPORTS

The Northrup, Braslan, Goodwin Company, a Chicago seed firm, have filed charges at the Department of Agriculture against Secretary Morton in connection with the recent award of seed contracts. The letters filed asked a reply from the Secretary, which thus far has not been forthcoming.

The substance of the charges made is that the Northrup, Braslan, Goodwin Company were really the lowest bidders for the 10,125,000 packages of vegetable seeds included in the recent seed contract, their offer being \$64,000. The contract was given to Landreth & Co. of Philadelphia for vegetable seeds, and to L. L. May & Co. of St. Paul, Minn., for flower seeds, to the value of \$5,000.

Tuesday the representative of the firm filed their charges. They state that when they entered the competition a certified check for \$8,000 was filed as evidence of in operation. None of the changes proposed responsibility, letters were presented from by the board was in the interests of econleading bankers of Chicago affirming their responsibility, and that while they offcred seed asigood as any offered by competitors with a guarantee bond on file and a bid \$11,000 lower than any other, they were not given the contract "because of coilusion, fraud, corruption, false statements and especially prepared reports, practiced, carried on and had done in your depart-

ment."
One charge is that the contract was with held because members of the firm worked to secure the passage of the seed resolution through Congress against Secretary Morton's wishes. It is also charged that false statements have been made by va-rious officials in the department with regard to the seeds furnished by the firm. Secretary Morton's Statement.

When Secretary Morton was seen this norning by a Star reporter he said: "We shall be only too glad to have the fullest nvestigation possible of this matter. If it desired it may be investigated here or in Congress, or anywhere else. If necessary, articles of impeachment should be drawn up against me and the matter tested "The facts in the matter, briefly stated,"

"The facts in the matter, briefly stated," he continued, "are that the department last year bought more seed of this firm than of any other. Of the grand total of seed bought by the department last year, to the value of \$48,830, we bought of the Northrup, Braslan Goodwin Co. seed to the value of \$29,683.

"Now to put the matter concretely." "Now, to put the matter concretely,

want to say just this: If we had bought the seed this spring of the Northrup, Braslan Goodwin Company, under precisely the same contract that we bought of Landreth and their seed under this contract proved no better than that they sold us last year their contract price for it would be \$48,000 instead of \$64,000, the amount which they

A Peculiar Business Contract.

"To explain: All seed purchased by the department is tested for its percentage of purity and its percentage of germinative power. Landreth & Co., a firm that has teen in business 114 years, that itself produces upon its own farms the seed it sells, obligated itself with bonds to submit to a bla. deduction from the amount paid them for seed in precise proportion to the failure of that seed to come up to the standard tests. This is the first time in the history of this department any such contract was ever made. It is a superb business contract. Now, that is all I wish to say in regard to the matter as affecting this Chicago firm.
"The seed was bought in the open man ket, just as Congress directed should be done. When the joint resolution was pass ed we had to hurry. It was like passing a resolution to buy oysters. We had to buy and get this seed out in a month with R in

it I wrote to Senator Proctor and to Representative Wadsworth, the respective chairmen of the agricultural committees of the Senate and the House, and asked them to come to the department and give me

chase of these seeds. How the Contract Was Let. "A tabulated statement was made of all the offers received. They were gone over carefully by these gentlemen, myself and Assistant Secretary Dabney. At the conclusion Senator Proctor was first to suggest that the contract be given to Landreth. Mr. Wadsworth was next to assent. Mr. Landreth's bld was \$78,000. Senator Proctor said that if he would furnish the seed for \$70,000 we had better give him the contract. Mr. Landreth was here, as well other seedsmen, and we called him in and counteract the work done by the "sound tract for these vegetable seeds if he would money" champion. Mr. Bankhead may be furnish them for \$70,000. He hesitated a furnish them for \$70,000. He hesitated a moment then said: 'I think I could do it-

Oates will be a "sound-money" candidate.

The issue has been closely drawn in the sound-money. I'll do it, and that settled it."

A Star reporter visited the chemical suboratory connected with the Department. the seed-testing expert, and his assistant Mr. Edward D. Peters, are in charge. Mr. Hicks is a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College and Mr. Peters of Cornell University. Both were students and as-sociates in scientific work with Professor Both were students and as-L. P. Bailey, the famous agricultural scien

Testing Seeds. "We make four tests of all seeds," said Mr. Hicks. "The seeds are sent to u labeled with letters and we do not know whose they are. Of all the agricultural seeds two hundred are used in duplicate tests by each of the four methods, so that there are practically eight tests made of each kind of seed and 1,600 seeds are used of each kind. The first and simplest test Then we test in asbestos pockets, in sand and in soil. The standard of purity and germination adopted by the department is the result of an average of tests made in ratories connected with the various experiment stations throughout the country

Scientific Seed Control.

"In the recent contract it was decided to allow a leeway of 5 per cent below this standard. We are testing the Landreth seeds carefully, and where they fall more than 5 per cent below the standard a corresponding percentage of deduction will be made from the contract price. It should be said for the benefit of the public that Mr. Peters and myself are acting simply as scientists. We only desire to be accurate and just, and science is purely impersonal. It is true that the Agricultural Department has been the dumping ground in the past of immense quantities of old and useless seed, and the farmers of the United States have been regularly and systematically imposed upon by seedsmen. It is the universal practice to mix old seed in with new. so far as the new will stand it. If this present commotion will tend toward the es-tablishment of a seed control in this country similar to that undertaken by several countries in Europe, it will not have come for naught."

Cullom Has Not Withdrawn. A rumor was circulated this morning that Senator Cullom had withdrawn his candidacy for the presidential nomination. To several members of Congress who asked him about the matter the Senator denied it.

Shenk's Sentence Postponed. Sentence was not imposed today, as was expected, on Monroe Shenk, who pleaded guilty a few days ago to a charge of rob bery at the office of the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railway Company. Before taking this action Judge Cole will await the result of the trial next week of William I. Roberts, indicted jointly with Shenk for the crime mentioned.

lestimony of Lieut. Menocal on the Nicaraguan Canal.

The Government Board is Charged With Making Only a Hasty and

Superficial Examination.

Lieut. A. G. Menocal, United States navy,

the chief engineer of the Nicaragua Canal Company, appeared today before the House committee on commerce, which is investigating the question. Menocal submitted a review of the report of the commiss to the isthmus last summer. He said: "The ompany regards and has treated the project as a business enterprise, with a view to commercial requirements, technical success and financial results. The board entirely ignores two of these conditions, and considers it from the point of unlimited expenditures without any question of financial results, and provides beyond commercial requirements of the present for de-mands that can be only rarely occasional." He said that the board had made a hasty trip through the territory, touching only here and there the route of the canal when it was convenient, and had an imperfect knowledge of the physical conditions of the problems presented and the work already

What the Company Proposed. The plans of the company were not for an ideal canal, regardless of cost, but for one ample to satisfy the needs of commerce and larger than any ship canal now

omy or of a better canal. Mr. Menocal dealt in detail with the at-mospheric conditions, rainfall and other ratural features of the country, as well as the engineering details of the canal. There was a long examination of Mr. Menocal by members of the committee. He had made the trip through Nicaragua

with the government commission, and gave an account of the journey. Practically no surveys or bearings were taken, he said; the observations were of the most hasty and superficial sort, and the report of the commission might have been made as incommission might have been made as in-telligently without leaving Washington. The company, he said, had paid to the Nicaraguan government \$100,000 for its concessions and \$50,000 for its right of way, and nothing to the Costa Rican govern-

ment.

Mr. James Alexander of Pittsburg addressed the committee in opposition to the Nicaragua canal. He argued that the scheme was entirely impracticable, and

favored the Eads ship railway across

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

Mr. Wilber has introduced the following

bill in the House, by request: That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are directed to open and grade 11th street northwest from Florida avenue to New Jersey avenue extended, on the line of exension laid down in the map of street exension recently filed by the Commissioners in the office of the surveyor of the District of Columbia, under the provisions of the act of March 2, 1893; and the Commissioners are authorized and directed to condemn, in the manner provided by law prior to the said act of March 2, 1893, for the condemnation of land in the District of Columbia, such lands as may be necessary for the extension of said street, and the amount of money necessary to pay the judgment of condemnation and the cost of grading is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise ap-propriated, to carry out the provisions of this act, the cost to be borne equally by the United States and the District of Colum-

He also introduced a bill to open and

The report of the House District committee on the marriage bill, as prepared by Mr. Curtis of Iowa, proposes the following new section to the bill in lieu of section 7: That if any minister, justice of the peace or other person who is authorized to celebrate marriages in the District of Columbia shall fall to comply with the provisions of section 8 of this act, he shall, upon conviction, be fined for each and every offense, in the discretion of the court, not less

than \$50 nor more than \$250. Also the following in lieu of section 13: That sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17, in chapter 30, of the compiled statutes now in force in the District of Columbia, now in force in the District of Columbia, and all laws or parts of laws heretofore in force in this District inconsistent with or in conflict with the provisions of this act

are hereby repealed.

Street Railway Transfers. The House District committee will give a hearing next Thursday morning at 10 o'clock upon the general subject of street railway transfers.

To Ventilate the House.

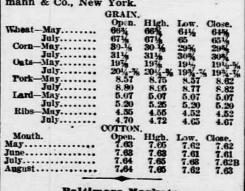
The House committee on ventilation and acoustics today agreed to a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to detail an expert on heating and ventilation from the supervising architect's office to carefully examine the plan submitted to the committee for a proposed new system of ventilation for the House wing of the Capitol. The resolution requires the expert to report to the committee by April 23 his opinion of the proposed plan, with suggestions and recommer.dations for such alterations as, in his estimation, would improve the plan, and would better the system of ventilation.

Southern Railway Agent Dead.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. RICHMOND, Va., April 11.-Charles W. Harwood, past grand regent of the Royal Arcanum of Virginia, died at his home in this city early this morning. He was soliciting freight agent here, of the Southern raflway.

New Hammer Throwing Record. SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.-Robert W. Edgren of the University of California has again beaten the world's hammer throwing record. From the regulation seven-foot ring he hurled a sixteen-pound hammer 148 feet 5 inches. This was over three feet farther than the world's record, and foot farther than Edgren's previous best trial throw.

Grain and Cotton Markets. Furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., 1421 F street, members New York stock exchange, correspondents Messrs. Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., New York.



Baltimore Markets.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, April 11.—Flour firm, unchanged—recelpts, 6,839 barrels; shipments, 17,949 barrels; sales, 150 barrels. Wheat dull and higher—spot and month, 73¼a73½; May, 72a72¼; July, 71¼a 71¼—recelpts, 209 bushels; shipments, 16,000 bushels; stock, 106,879 bushels—southern wheat by sample, 70a78; do. on grade, 73a76. Corn steady—spot and month and May, 34¾a25; June, 35¼ bid; July, 35¼a36; steamer mixed, 33½a33½—receipts, 26,877 bushels; shipments, 175,714 bushels; stock, 605,137 bushels; shipments, 175,714 bushels; stock, 605,137 bushels; slales, 58,000 bushels—southern white corn, 35; do. yellow, 35½. Oats quiet and steady—No. 2 white western, 26a26½; No. 2 mixed do., 24½a 25—receipts, 9,846 bushels; stock, 189,363 bushels. Rye easier, demand slack—No. 2, 41a42 nearby; 43½a44 western—stock, 83,300 bushels, Hay, best grades firm and a good demand—choice timothy, \$16.00. Grain ireights rather slow, unchanged. Sugar strong, unchanged. Butter, eggs and cheese steady, unchanged. Whisky unchanged.

Strong Speculative Undertone and Small Volume of Business.

CONFIDENCE IN CUBAN SITUATION

What Representatives of Foreign Interests Say.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, April 11.-A strong speculative undertone and a minimum volume of business about describes today's stock operations. Fractional additions were recorded in a majority of the more active issues, but the professional character of the market remains unchanged. The developments of the past week, which are likely to influence speculation, have in the main been favorable, and should eventually find reflection in a slightly higher range of values.

The Madrid letter, notwithstanding the existence of grave doubt as to its having been sent and patent evidences of guesswork as to its contents, had a moderate influence for good in today's market. Enough has already been learned of the probable course to be pursued in connection with the Cuban situation to inspire confidence in a satisfactory termination of a disquieting controversy. This latter assurance is all that should

be demanded as a speculative factor, the date of a diplomatic letter opening the way to such a result being of small moment by comparison.
The adjournment of Congress would ma-

terially relieve the tension of the present situation, and indications point to an early discounting of this event. A movement, based on the prespect, is quite probable within the next fortnight, unless present

indications are misleading.

The market for foreign exchange is an important factor at the present time and will continue to be for several weeks, in all probability. There has been no important business transacted in the market during the week, the bulk of the transactions consisting principally of bills sold against gold shipped, on special order, to Russia. Rates have ruled well under the shipping point, except in cases similar to the one noted, in which a premium was paid.

Representatives of foreign banking in-

terests are authority for the statement that there is almost no disposition on the part of foreigners to withdraw funds from this side, a condition fully substantiated by the free offerings of three and four months' money at 4 per cent. For the first time since the government bond transaction the associated banks report a moderate gain in lawful money, all in legal tenders. This circumstance indicates that the receipts of money from interior points have more than offset the withdrawals on account of specie exports.

An easier money rate is reasonably cer-tain in view of the changes noted. Should the exchange market sink back to normal conditions, cheap money will prove a val-table auxiliary to improvement in values. The approach of more seasonable weather is regarded with hopefulness, a revival of general business being likely to follow more settled climatic conditions. The market's disregard for the government crop report, in view of the extreme dullness pre-vailing, was generally regarded as an en-couraging indication of strength. Discrimcouraging indication of strength. Discriminating purchasers from now on will not be disappointed with final results. Patient holders alone are likely to be rewarded, however, as the demand for stocks will not immediately become general.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERICIAL.

The following are the opening, the highest and the lowest and the closing prices of the New York stock market today, as reported by Corson & Macartney, members New York

- 1	Moute & Deniej, Mo.	or Dione way.			
J		Open.	High.	Low.	Last.
	American Sugar	119%	119%	119	119%
33	American Sugar, Pfd	101	1013	201	101 3
7	American Tobacco	6334	84	83	84
5	American Cotton Oil				
:	Atchison	15%	15%	15%	15%
-	Balto. & Ohio	****	****	*****	
3	Canada Southern	4914	49%	491	491
-	Canada Pacific			*****	
	Chesapeake & Ohlo				
2/2	C., C., C. & St. L	B5	35	84%	5434
3	Chicago, B. & Q	78	78%	77%	781
-	Chic. & Northwestern	103%	103%	1033	1033
	Chicago Gas, Cfs	ess	68%	685	68%
	C. M. & St. Paul	75%	75%	75%	75%
8	C. M. & St. Paul, Pfd		125%	12534	125%
	Chic., R. I & Pacific	70%	, 71%	707	70%
	Del., Lack. & W	*****		****	
	Delaware & Hudson			****	
1	Den. & R. Grande, Pfd.	*****	*****	*****	*****
8	Dis. & Cattle Feeding General Electric	17%	17%	1736	1734
	Illinois Central	100 PG 2010	883	87%	38%
n	I ake Shore	1474	1474	1475	1.75
r	Lake Shore	147%	147%	144.78	147%
t	Louisville & Nashville	49%	49%	49%	493
•	Long Island Traction		40%		40%
п	Metropolitan Traction	1031	1031	1033	1031
- 1	Manhattan Elevated	1103	1103	1103	110%
	Michigan Central				
2	Missouri Pacific.	2414	24%	2414	2434
k	National Lead Co	*****			
y	National Lead Co., Pfd.				
	U. S. Leather, Pfd	6156	6174	611	613
	New Jersey Central	105%	105%	1057	1053/
	New York Central				
20	N Y. & N. Eng. Cfs				
1	N. Y. C. & St. Louis	****			
	Northern Pacific	134	1%	134	1%
0	Northern Pacific, Pfd	111	11%	1134	113
	North American			****	*****
n	Ont. & Western		*****	*****	****
0	Pacific Mall	2634	263	261	263
e	Phila & Reading		*****	****	
f	Fullman Pal. Car Co	*****	*****	*****	
L	Southern Rallway, Pfd	291	29%	20%	293
-	Phila. Traction	•••••	*****		****
0	Texas Pacific	*****			****
21	Tenn. Coal & Iron	81	31	30%	31
	Union Pacific	8%	61/2	83%	87
S	Wabash Pfd	101	*****	*****	*****
8	Wabash, Pfd Wheeling & L. Erle	18%		181	181
е	Wheeling & L. Erie, Pfd	9%	9%	9%	93
-	watering & L. Erie, Fid	I lake to the		Section 1	400

Western Union Tel..... 88% 83% 83% Washington Stock Exchange

Sales—regular call—12 o'clock m.—Metropolitan Railroad 6s, \$5,600 at 121½. Metropolitan Railroad, 10 at 115; 10 at 115. People's Fire Insurance, 66 at 5%. American Graphophone, 20 at 6%. Mergenthaler Linotype, 10 at 120. Lanston Monotype, 89 at 8%; 25 at 8%; 85 at 8%. After call—Metropolitan Railroad, 5 at 115½.

Government Bonds.—U. S. 4s, registered, 108% bid, 108% asked. U. S. 4s, coppon, 100% bid. U. S. 4s, 1925, 116% bid, 117% asked. U. S. 5s, 1904, 113¼ bid.
District of Columbia Bonds.—20-year fund 5s, 103 bid. 30-year fund 6s, gold, 108 bid. Water stock 7s, 1901, currency, 110 bid. Water stock 7s, 1901, currency, 110 bid. Water stock 7s, 1903, currency, 112 bid. 3.65s, funding, currency, 109 bid, 112 asked.

Miscellaneous Bonds.—Metropolitan Railroad 6s,

78. 1901, currency, 110 bid. Water stock 78. 1903, currency, 112 bid. 3.65s, funding, currency, 103 bid. 112 asked.

Miscellaneous Bonds.—Metropolitan Railroad 5s, 1063/2 bid, 1093/2 asked. Metropolitan Railroad 5s, 77 bid, 79 asked. Columbia Railroad 6s, 1144/2 bid, 116 asked. Eckington Railroad 6s, 1144/2 bid, 116 asked. Eckington Railroad 6s, 98 bid, 101 askedo. Washington Gas Company 6s, series A, 1109/2 bid, 113 asked. Washington Gas Company 6s, series B, 1111/2 bid, 115 asked. Washington Gas Company conv. 6s, 120 bid, 126 asked. U. S. Electric Light conv. 5s, 125 bid. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone 5s, 98 bid. American Security and Trust 5s, A. and O., 101 bid, 104 asked. Washington Market Company 1st 6s, 108 bid. Masonic Hall Association 5s, 104 bid. Washington Light Infantry 1st 6s, 100 bid.

National Bank Stocks.—Bank of Washington, 275 bid. Bank of the Republic, 240 bid. Metropolitan, 290 bid. 310 asked. Central, 282 bid. Farmers and Mechanics', 180 bid, 190 asked. Second, 130 bid. Citizens', 133 bid. Columbia, 128 bid. 138 asked. Capital, 116 bid. West End, 107 bid, 110 asked. Traders', 98 bid. 100 asked. Linoln, 102 bid, 106 asked. Ohio, 85 bid, 95 asked.

Safe Deposit and Trust Compan'es.—National Safe Deposit and Trust, 118 bid. 121 asked. Washington Loan and Trust, 121 bid, 122 asked. Washington Safe Deposit and Trust, 118 bid. 121 asked. Washington Safe Deposit and Trust, 118 bid. 121 asked. Eckington, 15 bid. 27 asked. Georgetown and Tennallytown, 30 asked. Gas and Electric Light Stocks.—Washington Gas ked. Gas and Electric Light Stocks.—Washington Gas ked. Gas and Electric Light Stocks.—Washington Gas ked.

American Graphophone, 52% bld, 7 as matic Gun Carriage, 20 bld, 23 asked. Miscellaneous Stocks. — Mergenthaler 113 bld, 120 asked. Lanston Monotype, asked. Washington Market, 13 bld. 6 Ice, 12 0bld, 130 asked. Norfolk and Steamboat, 90 bld. Lincoln Hall, 90 asked.